



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Glacier Bay National Park
and Preserve

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Glacier Bay News Release

Effective date: 5:00 AM September 8, 2004

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Date: September 7, 2004

Sandy Cove Vessel Speed and Course Restrictions Lifted

In Accordance with Title 36 Code of Federal Regulations

13.65 (b)(3)(iv)(D)(2)(v)(A)(2)

Glacier Bay National Park and Preserve Superintendent Tomie Patrick Lee announced today that the 10 knot vessel speed limit and course restrictions in the waters surrounding Sandy Cove have been lifted. These restrictions were implemented on August 7 to protect humpback whales that were frequenting the area. Over the past week, the number of humpback whales sighted around Sandy Cove has declined significantly, resulting in the cancellation of these special vessel operating restrictions. As of 5:00 AM on Wednesday September 8, 2004, there are no vessel speed or course restrictions in the Sandy Cove area. The Park's vessel quotas and operating restrictions are designed to protect the endangered humpback whale, which feeds in the waters of southeastern Alaska, including Glacier Bay.

However, due to the continued presence of numerous humpback whales in the entrance to the West Arm whale waters the 13 knot vessel speed limit in this area will remain in effect until further notice. In addition, the 10 knot speed limit and mid-channel vessel course restriction in the northern Beardslee Entrance whale waters will remain in effect until further notice (see attached map).

Although humpback whales tend to be distributed along the shoreline, boaters should note that whales frequently cross mid-channel as they move between feeding sites, and boaters should proceed cautiously in all areas where whales are present because whales may surface in unexpected locations, posing a hazard to both the vessel and the whale. Boaters are also reminded that vessels are always prohibited from approaching within one-half mile of humpback whales in Park waters. According to Glacier Bay National Park and Preserve regulations, if accidentally positioned within one-quarter mile of a whale, vessel operators must slow immediately to 10 knots or less and steer the vessel on a steady course away from the whale (perpendicular to the whale's course) until their vessel is at least one quarter mile from the whale.

Boaters are advised to verify whale waters designations prior to entering Glacier Bay by telephoning (907) 697-2627 or by contacting KWM20 Bartlett Cove on marine VHF radio.

Information is also available on the Park's web site at: <http://www.nps.gov/glba/pphtml/news.html>

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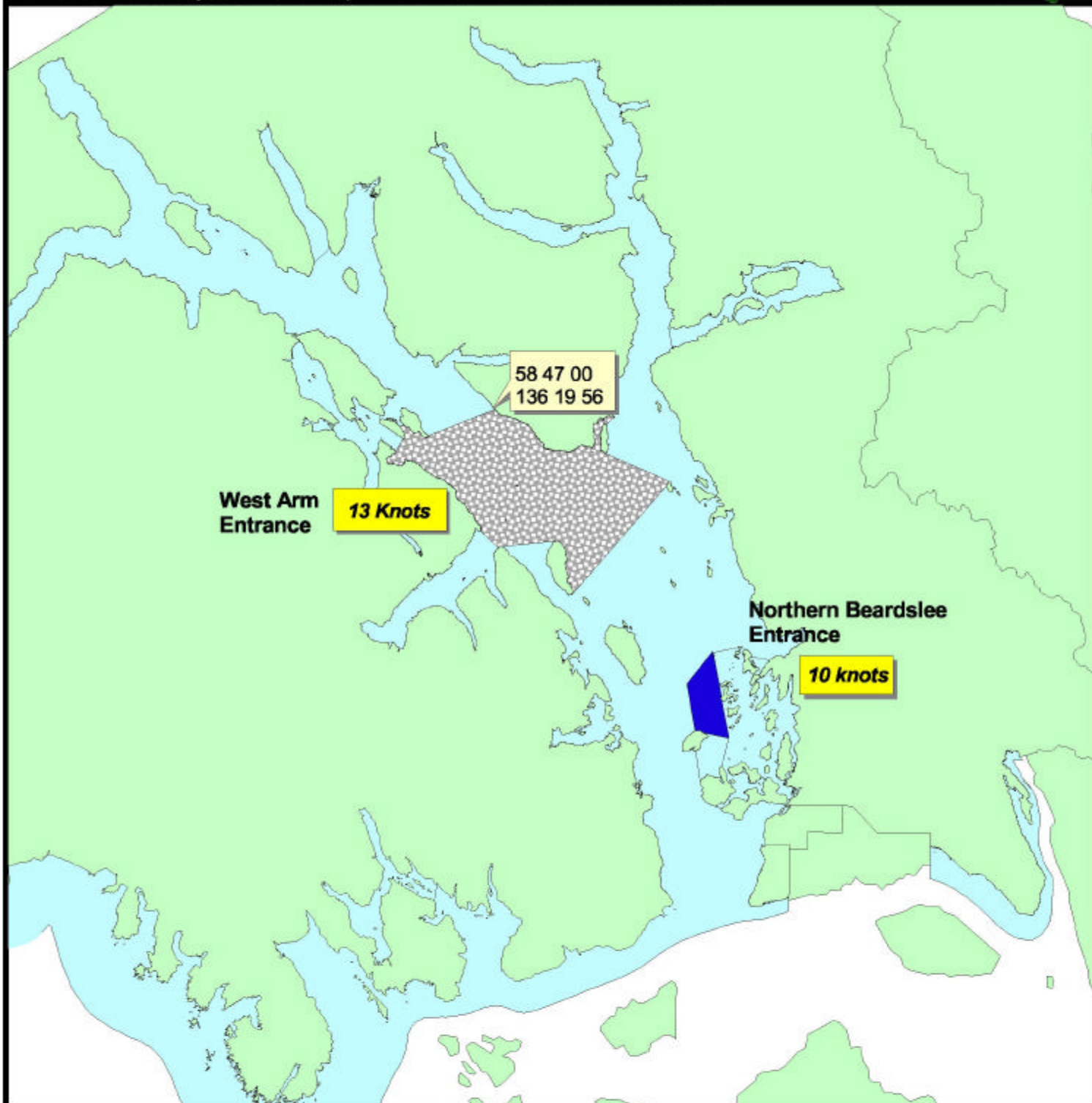
The National Park Service cares for special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.

Current Whale Waters

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior



Effective September 8, 2004 until further notice



West Arm
Entrance

13 Knots

58 47 00
136 19 56

Northern Beardslee
Entrance

10 knots



Map Location



Glacier Bay National Park and Preserve

5 0 5 10 15 Miles

1 : 503,172 1 inch = 7.94 miles

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